

REMARKS

The pending Office Action has been carefully considered. There are now 23 claims pending in this application having three independent claims, numbered, 16 and 20. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that item c) is a tackifying resin.

The present invention as claimed in independent claims 1, 16 and 20 is a combination of 8-10 items, indicated by the letters a-j (claims 1 and 16); or a-h (claim 20). When properly combined these items yield an adhesive having probe tack force in grams in the range of 400 - 750, saline absorbency in the range of about 500 - 5000 g/m²/d and tensile strength in the range of about 500 - 3500 g/cm².

As indicated on page 3, 2nd full paragraph, the compatibility of the tackifier with the elastomer is believed to be a key factor in tackifier effectiveness, as is the low molecular weight species in the elastomer.

In order to achieve the other desired range characteristics of absorbency and tensile strengths the other compositional materials and percentages are necessary.

The applicant has determined that a compatible tackifying resin for the EPR elastomer is a low molecular weight, highly hydrogenated polyvinylcyclohexane, preferably having a softening point below body temperature, and most preferably below room temperature (see page 2, last paragraph). An example of this type of polyvinylcyclohexane is Piccota 95. The claim is not directed to the trademarked material but to polyvinylcyclohexane of which Piccota 95 is an example.

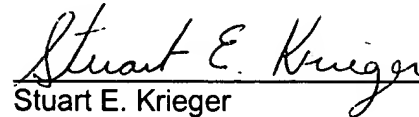
However, as shown in example 1-4, and 17-20, it is possible to alter the other items of the composition to achieve the desired tack, saline absorbency, and tensile strength while omitting the low softening point tackifier. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 16 and 20 are directed to the examples supported by the tables. There is support for the claim language, including the composition and physical characteristics. The claims comply with 35 USC 112 as presently written. The claims are directed to the examples provided in the tables together with the description in the specification. The claims do not merely state 0-6% tackifier. Claims 1, 16 and 20 provide for 0% to 6% of a tackifier with softening point below about 37°C comprising polyvinylcyclohexane. This is fully supported by the specification. This feature was in the specification at the time it was filed and its presence in the independent claims is not violative of 35 USC 112.

The prior art of which we are aware does not suggest or disclose the adhesive composition as presently claimed in independent claims 1, 16 and 20 or the claims dependent thereon.

Allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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